

REMARKS

By this Amendment, applicants have amended claim 1 to specify that the oil or oils of the microemulsion comprise squalene or squalane or mixture of the two. Support for squalene or squalane may be found, for example, at Table 1, page 11 of the specification and squalene is used throughout the examples.

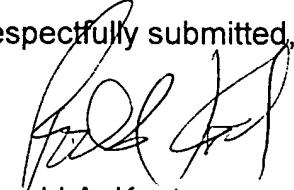
U.S. Patent No. 5,980,874 to Foerster not only relates to antiperspirant compositions (as discussed with relation to introduction of the new method claim 9), but is a broad, general teaching which does not appear to mention squalene and/or squalane anywhere in the specification. Thus, there is clearly no teaching or suggestion of the benefits of these materials and their ability to both dissolve triolein and maintain excellent spreadability.

As noted above, the Foerster reference relates to antiperspirant compositions and clearly does not disclose a method of cleansing skin without damaging the skin (measured by transepidermal water loss tests) when using the microemulsion comprising oils of defined S^R values of the invention. Support for such method of using microemulsion without damaging skin may be found, for example, in Example 12.

In view of the amendments and discussion above (e.g., narrowing the composition claim to specific oils and adding new method claim), it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims and allow all claims, i.e., claims 1-8, as amended and new claim 9.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald A. Koatz
Registration No. 31,774
Attorney for Applicants

RAK:sc
201-840-2912